

The California Climate Action Registry's Forest Protocols

May 27, 2004
Presented by:
The Forest Protocol Workgroup



Forest Protocol Development Background



■ Process

- Multi-stakeholder workgroup (April 2003-present)
- Expert Review (March 2004)
- Public Review (May 2004)
- Registry Board Consideration (June 2004)
- Implementation in CARROT (Summer 2004)

■ Context

- Senate Bill 812 (Sher)
- Senate Bills 1771 & 527 (Sher)
- Existing Registry Policy: General Reporting and Certification Protocols

Draft Protocol Recommendations



- **Forest Entity Reporting Protocol**
 - Guidance for forest entities
- **Forest Project Reporting Protocol**
 - Guidance for specific forest projects
 - Conservation-based forest management
 - Reforestation
 - Conservation
- **Certification Protocols: Entity and Project**
 - Guidance for third party certifiers

Forest Entity Protocol



- **Forest entity:**
 - Legal entity or individual who owns > 100 acres of trees
- **Purpose:**
 - Track changes in carbon stocks and any related CO₂ emissions (i.e. biological) over time
 - GRP provides guidance for non-biological (e.g. fossil fuel) emissions
- **Boundaries:**
 - CA or US (not Registry-certified)
- **Reporting responsibility:**
 - Owner of commercial and non-commercial trees

Forest Entity Protocol



- **Entity Baseline (optional):**
 - Characterization of practices over 100 year period
 - Quantification of baseline carbon stocks pursuant to characterization
- **Direct Stocks/Emissions:**
 - Required carbon pools (live tree biomass: bole, branches, leaves, roots & dead biomass: standing/lying dead wood and wood products)
 - Emissions quantified as decreases in carbon stocks over time (i.e. stock change accounting)
 - Reductions must be from projects (per SB 812)

Forest Entity Protocol



- **Quantification Requires Complete Inventory of Carbon Pools**
 - **Minimum confidence standards**
 - **Inventory must include -**
 - **Sampling methodology**
 - **Inventory plots (plots must be \leq 10 years)**
 - **Stratification System**
 - **Analytical methods to translate field measurements to volume and/or biomass**

Forest Project Protocol



- **Forest Project:** A planned set of activities that removes, reduces, or prevents CO₂ emissions in the atmosphere by conserving and/or increasing on-site forest carbon stocks
- **Purpose:** measure and monitor GHG reductions resulting from specific forest activities
- **Project Types:** Reforestation, Conservation-based forest management, & Conservation
- **Boundaries:** CA only

Forest Project Protocol: Baseline Characterization

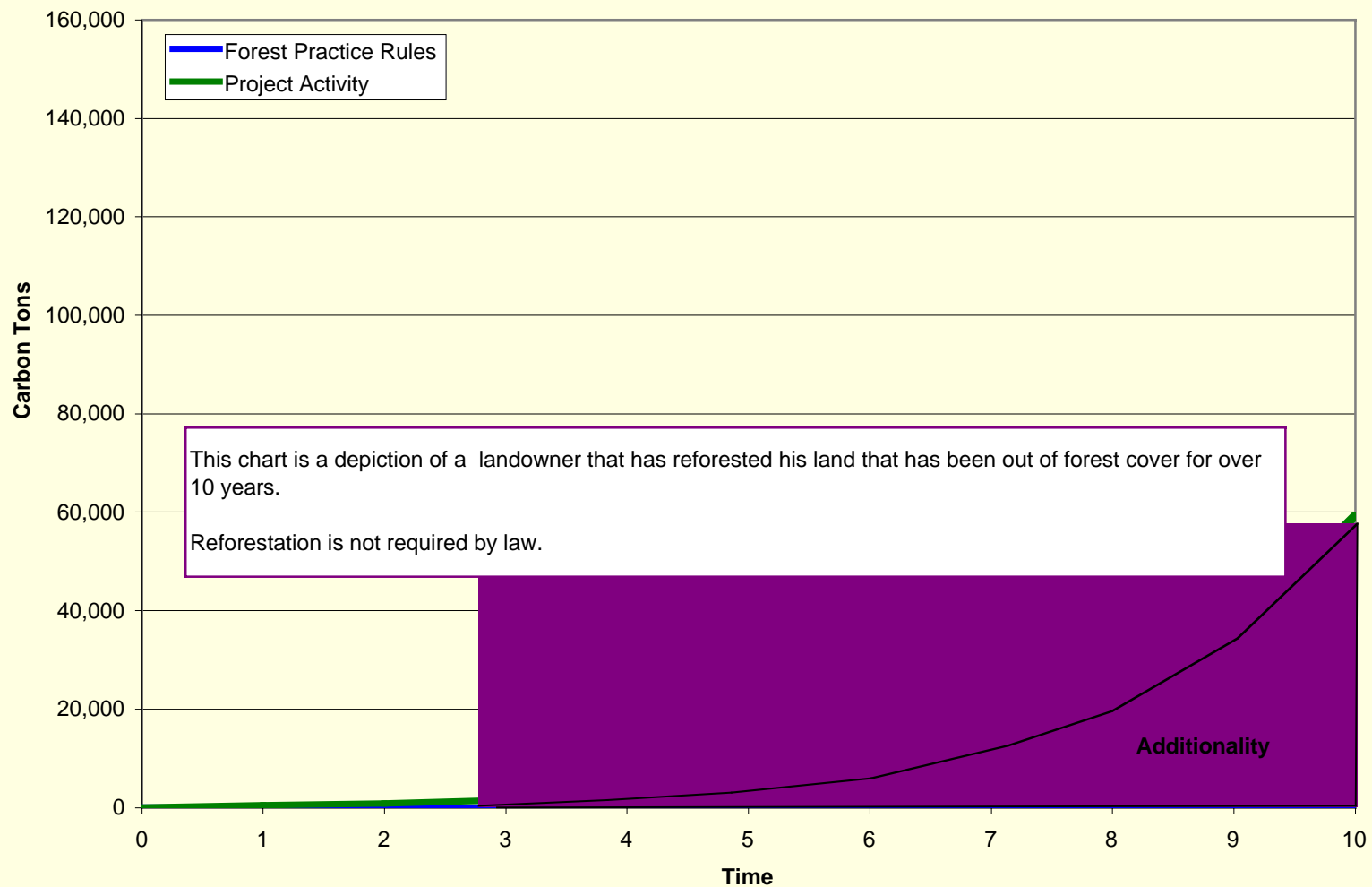


- **Reforestation:**
 - Out of forest cover (i.e. <10% tree canopy cover)
 - Expected future practices on land based on practices (or lack thereof) of previous ten years
- **Forest management:**
 - CA Forest Practice Rules
- **Conservation:**
 - Immediate site specific threat or
 - Land use conversion trend (FRAP data)
- **Additionality:**
 - Project activity must be additional to baseline, including any applicable mandatory laws

Additionality Examples



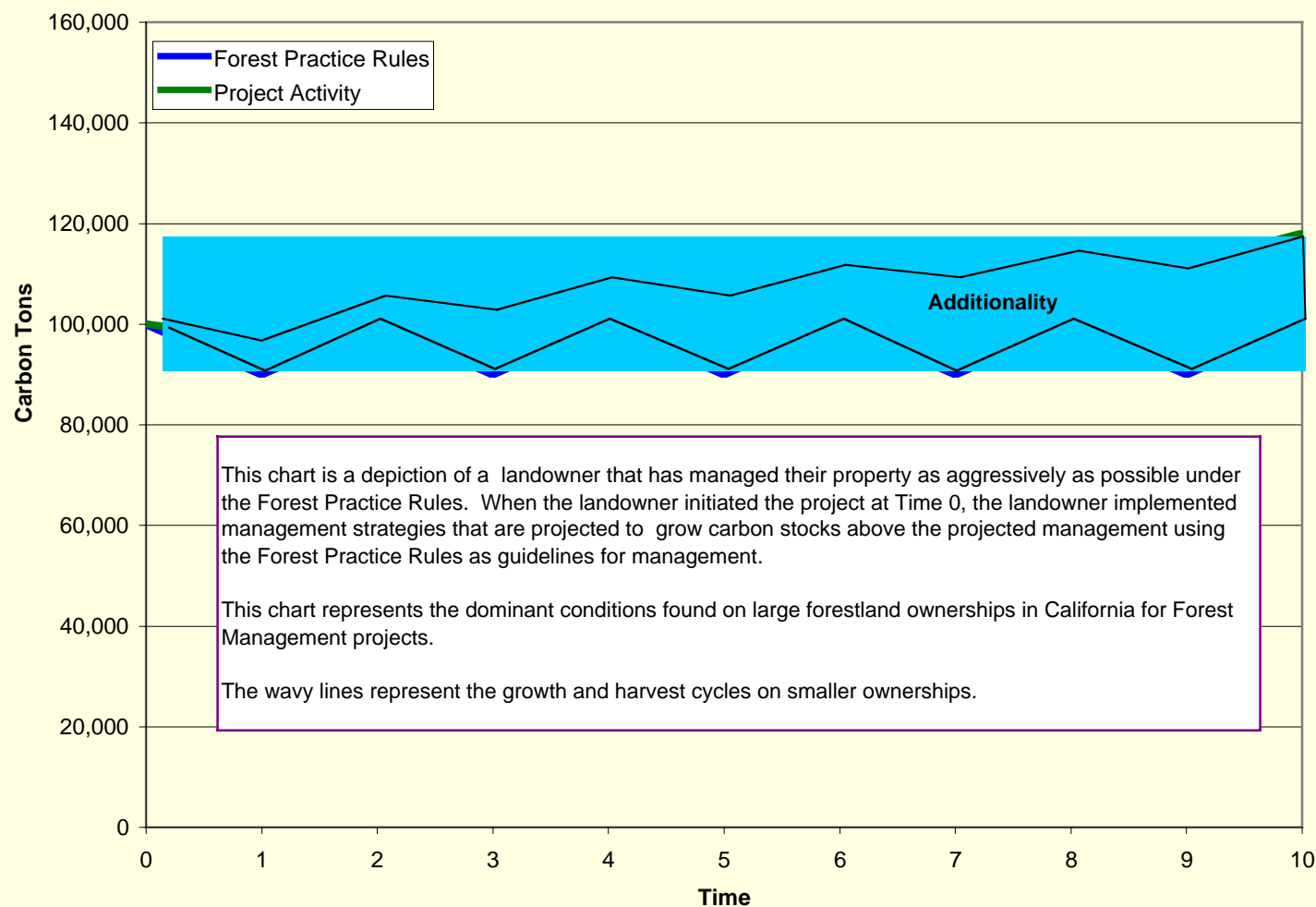
Reforestation Project
Project Activity vs. Forest Practice Rules



Additionality Examples



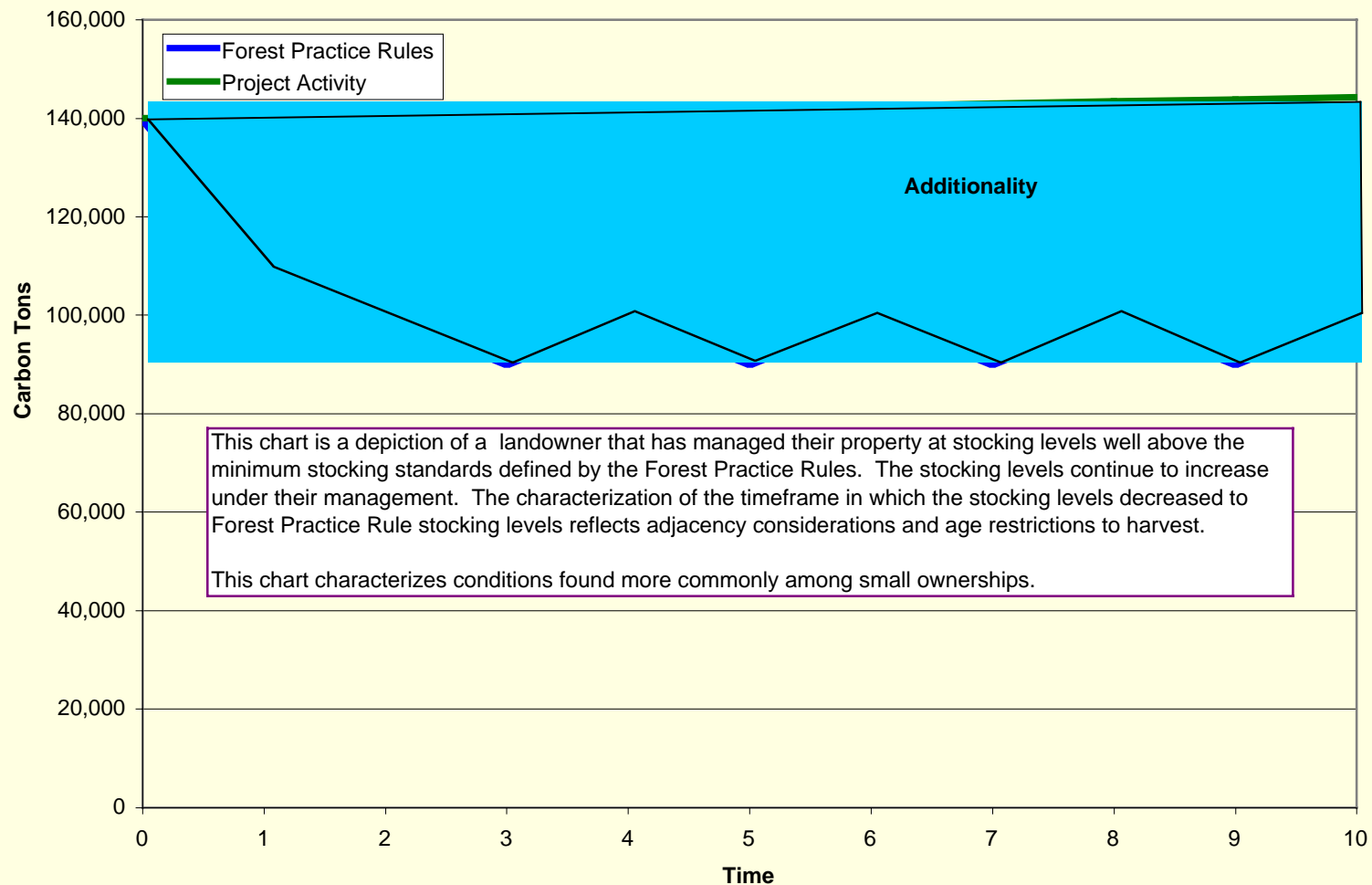
Forest Management Project
Project Activity vs. Forest Practice Rules



Additionality Examples



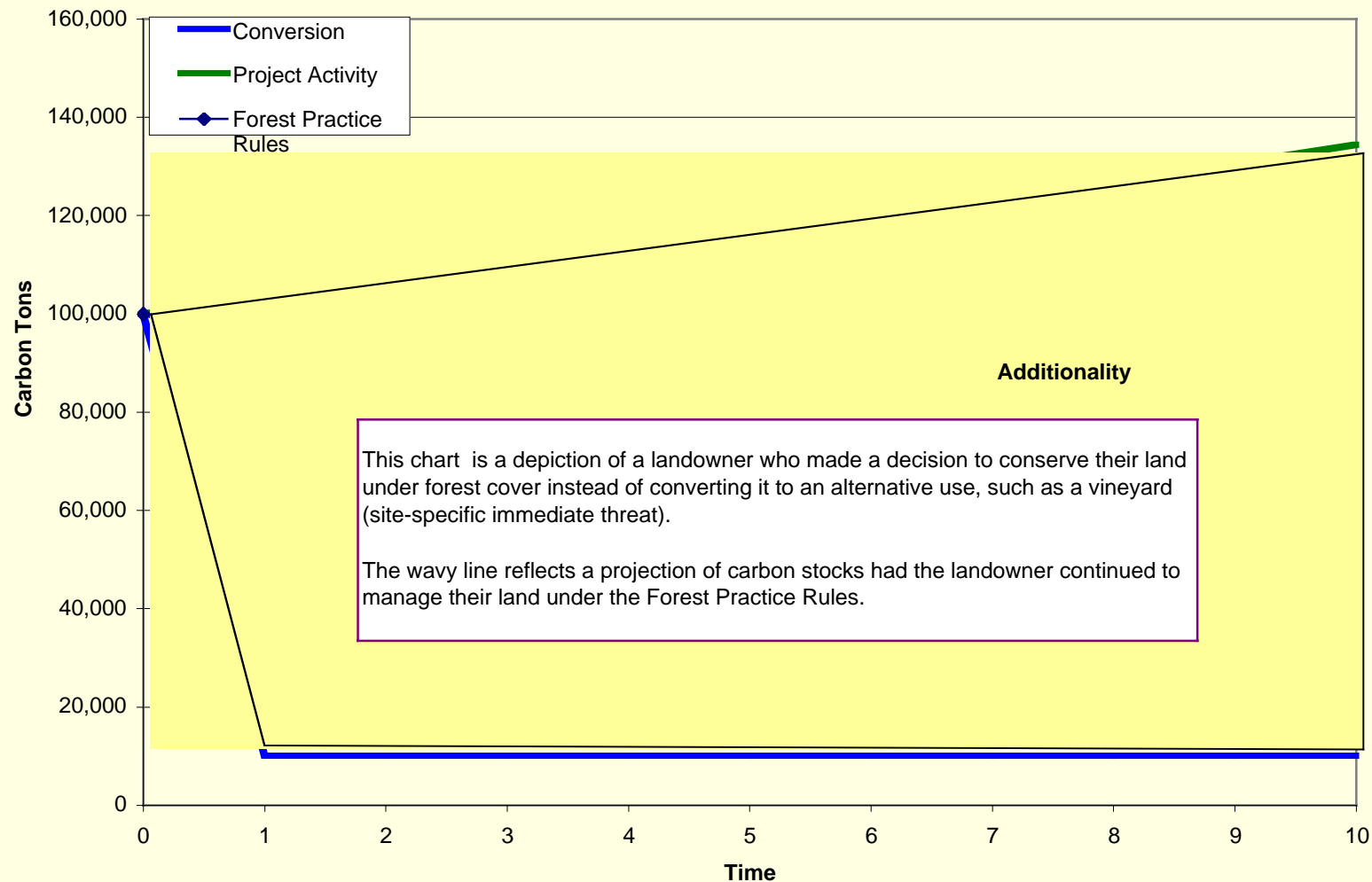
Forest Management Project
Project Activity vs. Forest Practice Rules



Additionality Examples



Conservation Project
Project Activity vs. Conversion



Forest Project Protocol: Permanence and Leakage



■ Permanence:

- Perpetual easement dedicates land to permanent forest use (i.e. secures land base)
- Annual reporting to Registry verifies duration of additional carbon stocks (i.e. reductions)

■ Leakage:

- Participant required to assess and identify activity-shifting leakage
 - Checked by certifier (certifier assesses entity reporting - public docs etc.)
 - Transparent for external program use
- Market leakage assessment encouraged

■ Other effects: Upstream/downstream effects

- Must identify types for transparency (on-site)

Forest Project Protocol: *Quantification Elements*



- Majority of requirements same as entity level, except:
 - Minimum confidence standard higher
 - Deductions based on confidence of estimates
 - GHG “reductions” are eligible (increases in carbon stocks – i.e. stock change accounting)

Certification Protocols



- **Purpose: To provide guidance to “approved certifiers” (third party) on how to conduct a standardized and accurate assessment of the reported GHG data**
- **Essential for credibility of reported carbon stocks and any CO₂ emissions/reductions**
- **Approved certifiers must include a Registered Professional Forester**

Certification (cont.)



■ Certification components:

- Direct sampling (at beginning and end of 5 year intervals)
- Annual monitoring reports
- Assessment of methodologies, estimations, models and calculations
- Reported data must be free of material misstatements (Direct sampling must be within 15% of certifier's results)

Contact Information



For More Information

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